

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) Method for the generation of chondrons comprising the step of:

cultivation of cells at unphysiologically high extracellular ~~extra-cellular~~ concentrations of magnesium (Mg), characterized in that at least once the unphysiologically high extracellular ~~extra-cellular~~ Mg concentration is increased during cell cultivation.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said magnesium is a solution of magnesium sulphate or magnesium chloride.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said extracellular ~~extra-cellular~~ concentrations of said magnesium solution range from about 12 mMol to about 65 mMol.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cultivation of the cells is further affected in the presence of foetal calf serum (FCS) or mammalian serum.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cultivation of the cells is further affected in the presence of at least one growth factor and/or cytokine and/or hormone.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein chondrocytes isolated from tissue of a mammal are cultivated.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein chondrocytes differentiated from chondrocyte precursor cells and/or from mesenchymal stem cells and/or embryonic stem cells and/or adult stem cells are cultivated.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 7 6 wherein the

chondrocytes are of mammal origin.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the chondrocytes are of human origin.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the cells; ~~preferably chondrocytes,~~ are seeded into tissue culture flasks and are cultivated in monolayer culture with medium supplemented with FCS and concentration of magnesium is initially in the range of 11 to 25 mMol.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~6~~ 4, wherein when increasing the Mg concentration the cells are embedded in alginate and cultured in medium supplemented with serum from said mammal, the concentration of magnesium is increased to a range of 21 to 65 ~~mMol~~ mMol in ~~Mol~~.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein the cultivation is effected under an oxygen partial pressure of 8%.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein cultivation is performed in vitro.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the cells are chondrocytes.

18. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the chondrocytes are of human origin.

19. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein when increasing the Mg concentration the cells are embedded in alginate and cultured in medium supplemented with serum from said mammal, the concentration of magnesium is

increased to a range of 21 to 65 mMol.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19 wherein the cultivation is effected under an oxygen partial pressure of 8%.